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DIOCESS OF WORCESTER.

ARTICLES

OF

*Visitation and Enquiry,*

CONCERNING

**MATTERS ECCLESIASTICAL,**

TO BE PROPOSED TO THE

Churchwardens of St. Swithin  
at the Visitation of the Rev. Thos. Evans  
D. D. ————— to be held at Worcester  
————— on the 10<sup>th</sup> —————  
day of June ————— 1795.

FRANCIS WELLES,

DEPUTY REGISTER.

# Churchwarden's OATH.

Y O U shall swear that you will well and truly execute the Office of a Churchwarden, within your Parish, for the Year now running ; and that you will truly and faithfully, according to the best of your Skill and Knowledge, present such Things and Persons as are presentable by the laws Ecclesiastical of this Realm.

So help you GOD.

*N. B. The Churchwardens of every Parish are required to shew these articles to their Minister, who is desired to instruct them in the due Execution of their Office ; and in case they shall refuse to present such Things and Persons as they know to be presentable, the minister is desired to present the same himself, and likewise to present the Churchwardens for neglect of their Duty.*

## FEES paid to the REGISTER.

		l.	s.	d.
By the churchwardens at the Spring Visitation	— —	0	3	6
Ditto, at Michaelmas, ditto,	— —	0	2	0
Curates, who have no benefice in the diocese	— —	0	0	10
Perpetual curates	— —	0	1	0
Licensed schoolmasters	— —	0	0	8

*N. B. To save trouble the churchwardens are requested to pay the curates and schoolmasters fees, with their own.*





# A R T I C L E S

O F

Visitation and Enquiry, &c.

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## TIT. I. *Concerning Ministers.*

IS your Minister a person of good life, and such as is suitable to his sacred Calling ?

Is he resident upon his benefice ? or, if not, hath he a licensed curate, well qualified to supply his place, residing upon the same ?

Does he duly perform all the offices of the church ? does he administer the holy sacrament of the Lord's supper so often in every year that every parishioner may receive at least three times every year, of which *Easter* to be one ? does he preach every Lord's day ? In reading the morning and evening service, and all other offices, doth he use the form of words prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer, without addition, diminution, or alteration, and that only at such times and places as the Ru-

brick directs? does he take care to baptize infants, instruct the youth in the catechism, and prepare and present them to be confirmed by the bishop? is he ready and careful to visit the sick? does he bury the dead, and take care to perform all other parts of his office and duty, as he ought to do?

### TIT. II. *Concerning Church and Parish Officers.*

**A**RE your churchwardens duly elected? have the last churchwardens given up their accounts, and delivered to you, the succeeding churchwardens, whatever money, papers, or other things, do belong to your parish church or chapel?

Have you a parish clerk duly appointed, of twenty-one years of age at least, of an honest life, and sufficient to perform his duty in reading, singing, and all other parts of his office.

Doth he, or the sexton, open and shut the doors, toll the bells, &c. at due times, and take care that the church or chapel be constantly kept clean, and in a decent manner?

### TIT. III. *Concerning the Parishioners.*

**A**RE there any in your parish guilty, or whom you think upon just grounds, to lie under a common

fame of adultery, and fornication? or are any married together within the degrees prohibited?

Are there in your parish any notorious common swearers or drunkards?

Are there any who absent themselves from all public religious worship on the lord's day?

Are there any who behave themselves indecently or irreverently in the church?

Are there any who follow their ordinary labour, or keep open shops on the Lord's day, or who keep disorderly houses, and more particularly, upon the lord's day are any such houses by any frequented?

**TIT. IV. Concerning Churches, &c. Church-Yards, Mansion-Houses of Ministers, Glebe, &c.**

IS your parish church or chapel, together with the chancel, kept in good and fit repair? are the roofs well covered, the windows well glazed, the walls well plastered, and the floors well paved?

*N. B. In order to preserve the Pavement smooth and regular, it is necessary, that when any Corpse is buried in the Church, the Coffin*

*fin have an Arch of Brick-Work made over it, to prevent the sinking of the Ground when the Coffin breaks ; to be done at the Charge of those who bury the Person.*

Are the seats well made, disposed, and preserved ? hath any person erected or altered any seats without due leave of the ordinary first obtained ?

Have you a bell or bells to summon the people together ? are they and the tower or steeple they are in, in good order and repair ?

Is there a decent font in the body of the church ? Is there a decent communion table in the chancel, with a carpet, and another covering of white and fine linen, to spread thereon at the time of the administration of the Lord's supper, and also another linen cloth to cover the elements ? have you a fair chalice or communion cup with a cover ; and one or more flaggons of silver or pewter ; a patin or plate for the bread ; and a bason or proper utensil for the offertory ; all dedicated to this sacred use only ?

Have you a decent and convenient reading desk, and a pulpit decent, adorned with a cloth and cushion ; a large bible of the last translation ; a book of common prayer ; a book of homilies ; and a decent surplice kept clean for the minister to officiate in ?

Have you register books, as the law directs ; and are

the names and surnames of all such persons as are christened, married, or buried, duly entered therein, with the names or surnames of the parents of such as are christened? and is a true copy thereof, subscribed by the minister and churchwardens, sent into the bishop's registry yearly, within one month after the 25th of *March*?

Have you a true and perfect terrier of the glebe-lands, gardens, orchards, tenements, &c. as also a note of all such pensions or profits (within or without your parish) besides the ordinary and usual tythes as belong to the rectory, vicarage, or curacy of your parish? is such terrier exhibited into the bishop's registry, signed by your minister, churchwardens, and principal inhabitants; and is a copy thereof kept in your Parish Chest?

Have you a true and faithful account, preserved in writing upon parchment, of all benefactions given to your church or parish? Have you a table of them hung up in your church? Are all such gifts and charities applied to their proper ends and uses? Have you an Inventory of all things belonging to your church? have you a strong chest, with three locks and keys, wherein to keep well and safely the aforesaid books, papers, plate, and furniture proper to be kept therein; and are all the things well kept and preserved?

Is your church or chapel-yard sufficiently and well fenced, and decently kept?

Are the houses, out-houses, &c. of your rector or vicar in good and decent repair? have any building belonging to the rectory or vicarage been pulled down without licence first obtained?

### TIT. V. *Concerning Schools and School-Masters.*

IF there is any school in your parish, do you know any cause of complaint, either in relation to the good life, abilities, or care of the master, or any thing else belonging to the said school?

Doth the school-master teach his scholars the church-catechism, and instruct them in religious principles?

Doth any keep a public or private school in your parish, who is not thereunto licenced and allowed by the ordinary?

*N. B. The Apparitors are desired to deliver a copy of these Articles to the Churchwardens of every Parish. And personally to cite all Rectors, Vicars, Curates, Church wardens, and Licenced Schoolmasters.*

T H E E N D.



